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- 162 Each community is comprised of ten to 30 individuals
621 including children (average: 17.9), distributed in one or
342 several habitations of which the type varies according to function and the nature of the terrain and the season (1).

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1. The Venezuelan llanos are huge savannas furrowed with watercourses running west-east and bordered with a corridor of forest, narrow but dense; they have a tropical climate characterized by two seasons: a rainy season, winter (June to September), during which the rivers overflow their beds and flood the savanna, and a dry season, summer (December to April), during which the latter become dry in part, uncovering long sandy shores.

342 The first type (I) is an upright house with a rectangular base (sometimes oval), three to four meters wide by five to seven long and three to four high, without walls and covered with a straw or palm roof with two sloping sides, open or closed at one or two ends and protecting from rain. It is built on the hard ground of high banks that the floods of the rainy season do not reach.

The second type (II) is a small, low hut (a man cannot stand in it) with a round base (II a) or oblong (II b), also without walls and covered with a roof of palms, either hemispherical (II a) or with two sloping sides (II b), protecting from rain; it stands on the soft ground of sand dunes and shores raised above the flood level (II 1), or shores freed by a drop in the water level (II 2).

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3. The Population.

a) Demography (see Tables III, IV, and V).

● 162 On the Capanaparo and the Riecito we have taken a census of 519 Yaruro (29 communities out of 30). Two-thirds (65.1%) of this population are adults (we do not have a breakdown by age) and the remainder (34.9%) prepuberal children. Among the adults the sexes are divided into two almost equal figures: 173 (51.2%) are men and 165 (48.8%) women. We have the /118/ /Table III appears here/ /119/ /Table IV and Table V appear here/ /120/ breakdown by sexes for children only in five communities; the totals for each of them gives us, there also, two figures which are practically equal: 23 male children to 21 female.

163 Our statistics on births and mortality bear on only three
165 communities with a total of 38 inhabitants in 1947; they are thus rather imprecise. During the period 1947 to 1950, i.e., during three years, we registered 6 births and 9 deaths (6 adults—2 men and 4 women—and 3 young children), that is, two births for three deaths (150% mortality) or, for the total population of the three villages, the respective percentages of 15.8% births and 23.7% deaths. The young children who died comprise one-third of the total of deaths (33.3%) and one half of the total births, which gives, for these 38 Yaruro, a 50% infant mortality.

161 On the basis of these statistics the Yaruro are on the way to extinction. This appears to be confirmed by the Indians themselves who state that they were formerly more numerous and that their number is going down each year. "We die with the first sickness," our old informant, Pedro Ramon Camacho (1)

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1. Head and shaman of community 6.

told us, "and that's why there are so few of us. We are disappearing."

[text continues on p. 16]

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TABLE III
CENSUS 1947-1948

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No. of the Comm.	ADULTS			CHILDREN			General Total
	♂	♀	Total	♂	♀	Total	
1	6	7	13			7	20
2	11	5	16			9	25
3	12	14	26			14	40
4	4	3	9			6	15
5	4	3	9	5	6	11	20
6	3	6	9	6	3	9	18
7	1	4	5	2	4	6	11
8	3	2	5			4	9
9							
10	28	16	44	10	8	18	62
11	9	9	18			5	23
12	4	5	9			8	17
13	3	6	9			7	16
14	5	4	9			4	13
15	6	3	9			5	14
16	7	8	15			7	22
17	11	12	23			10	33
18							
19	7	7	14			4	18
20	—	—	—			—	—
21	3	3	6			3	9
22	5	3	8			4	12
23	13	13	26			14	40
24	4	4	8			4	12
25	6	6	12			2	14
26	1	3	4			4	8
27	4	2	6			3	9
28	2	0	2			0	2
29	4	5	9			5	14
30	7	8	15			8	23
Total	173	165	338	23 (c)	21 (c)	44	519
%	51.2 (a)	48.8 (a)	65.1 (b)			34.9 (b)	

EVALUATIONS 1947-1948

(1)	150	150	300				300
(2)	34	30	64				64
(3)	5	5	10			7	17
(4)	6	5	11				11
General Total	368 (s)	355 (s)	723 (s)			188 (s)	911 (s)

a) Of the "adult" total. — b) Of the "general" total. — c) Total from 5 /sic/ communities.

1) On the Cunaviche (6 communities). — 2) Between the Capanaparo and the Cinaruco (5 communities). — 3) Between the Capanaparo and the Riecito (1 community). — 4) On the Cinaruco (1 community). — 5) Census and evaluations.

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TABLE IV
BIRTHS — DEATHS

No. of the Comm.	POPULATION 1947				BIRTHS 1947-1950	DEATHS 1947-1950					% Deaths/Births		
	Adults		Children	Total		Adults		Total	Children	General	Total	General	Children
	♂	♀				♂	♀						
6	3	6	9	18									
7	1	4	6	11									
8	3	2	4	9									
Total	7	12	19	38	6	2	4	6	3	9			
%					15.8 (a)				33.3 (b)	23.7 (a)	150.0	50.0	

(a) Of the total population of the three communities.

(b) Of the total deaths.

Site Reservoirs--14 E-5 (1947-1950) 1954 SS19 Yairuro SS19

TABLE V
DENSITY

TERRITORY			YARURO		VENEZUELAN PEASANTS				
Sections	Nos. of the Communities	Kms.	Population	Density per 10 kms.	South bank	Farms North bank	Total	Population 8 per Farm	Density per 10 kms.
Orinoco to Madre Vieja Basiliro	1 to 10	220	220	10.0	29	8	37	296	13.5
Madre Vieja Basiliro to Riecito	11 to 15	40	83	20.5	0	8	8	64	16.0
Riecito to Caribe	16 to 23	55	134	24.5	0	0	0	0	0
Riecito	24 to 30	89	82	9.0	0	0	0	0	0
Whole Territory	Totals and averages	404	519	13.0	29	16	45	360	14.0 (a)

(a) On 260 kms.

5:Le Beñerals--15 E-6 (1947-1950) 1954 SS19 Yaruro SS19
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b) Somatology and Pathology.

113 Vincenzo Petruccio in his book Yaruros of the Capanaparo

162 River (1) has devoted one chapter to the physical characteristics

1. In Anthropological Papers,
No. 11, Smithsonian Institution,
Bureau of American Ethnology,
Bulletin 123, pp. 161 to 290.

of the Yaruro. We refer the reader to this work, our own ob-
164 servations on this offering nothing very new. Let us add only
that all the adults and some children of both sexes have their
bodies and particularly the extremities of their limbs covered
with white, painful plaques called carare, a fact already noted
by Petruccio. According to the Yaruro, beginning with a certain,
unspecified age—perhaps corresponding to puberty, for we have
never observed it with the newborn and rarely with young
children—the skin dries up in places and then loses its pigmenta-
164 tion. Again according to the Yaruro, this phenomenon, which
827 they seem to consider a blemish (they have frequently asked
us if a remedy existed to get rid of it), is perhaps transmitted
through the blood. When a wife is attacked by carare she infects
her husband by pouring a drop of her own blood into his drink
so that he will not abandon her.

164 Sanitary conditions among the Yaruro are on the whole
extremely indifferent. Tests of blood from swords, carried out
by Professor Mayer of the Institute of Hygiene in Caracas, and
of blood previously drawn from some of the population reveal
signs of severe anemia and very strong eosinophilia.

These Indians all suffer more or less, particularly during
the rainy season, from colds, bronchitis, pneumonia, furunculosis,
attacks of grippe with fever or marsh fever, headaches, caries
and dental abscesses, pains which are doubtlessly rheumatic,
and glandular inflammations. The colds, bronchitis, attacks